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DE RUEHNO #0445 3361807
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 011807Z DEC 08
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2507
INFO RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0682
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY 0070
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USDELMC BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS USNATO 000445

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#)
SUBJECT: USNATO SUPPORTS PROPOSED MILREP IN REYKJAVIK

REF: REYKJAVIK 000276

11. (SBU) USNATO seconds Embassy Reykjavik request for a permanent U.S. military representative (reftel). Rising interest in energy sources, transportation routes, fisheries, and the melting of the polar cap have highlighted the importance of the High North to regional security. In addition, growing Russian assertiveness in the region has contributed to Allied concerns over competition and possible territorial issues. The U.S. decision to withdraw its permanent military basing in Iceland, taken before Russia decided to resume strategic bomber training runs over the Atlantic, has left the Icelanders feeling vulnerable. Although temporary NATO Air Surveillance missions over Iceland have resumed, providing a permanent U.S. military representative would be one step to provide reassurance, allow them a more direct channel to the Pentagon, ensure U.S. access to Iceland's facilities that support NATO's defense arrangements, and influence Iceland's evolving defense structures.

VOLKER